

jwu

JOHNSON & WALES
UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2012

commencement:2012

SPECIAL EDITION FOR NEW ALUMNI

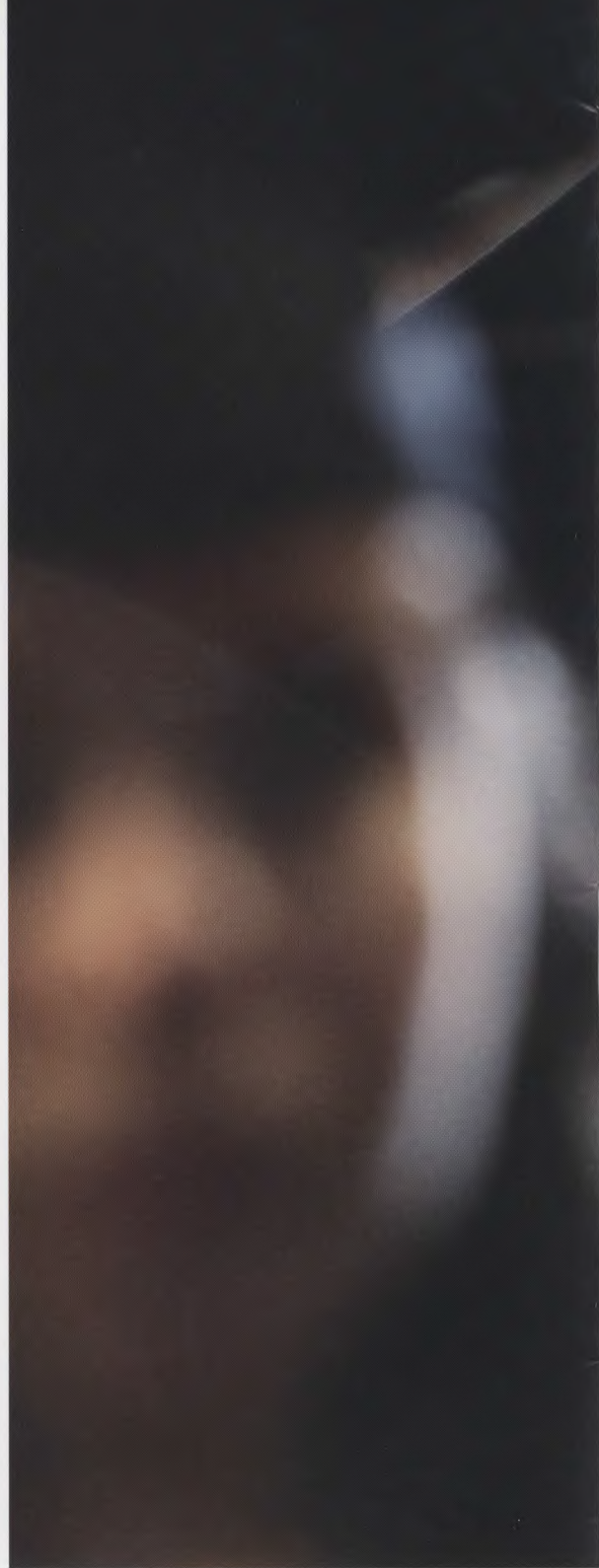


15 PASSION+DRIVE

Sixteen leaders in their industries have tapped a formula for success.

CENTER AND COVER PHOTOS BY SCOTT KINGSLEY
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LEFT TO RIGHT:

Commencement: Denver Campus; North Miami Campus; Charlotte Campus; Providence Campus; Mashari Perry '02; James Crowley '94 M.S.

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This special edition of *JWU Magazine* is dedicated to you — the newest alumni of Johnson & Wales University. You reached a milestone in your life as you successfully completed your course of study. On behalf of the more than 89,000 JWU alumni and as a fellow alumnus, I welcome you to our powerful network of alumni that spans the globe. The entire JWU community offers congratulations on this major personal accomplishment.

Your relationship with JWU continues long beyond your graduation. It is a lifelong bond. In this issue, you'll meet some of your fellow alumni as we celebrate their success. We look forward to including your stories in the magazine and on our website in the coming years.

We recognize that alumni interests are varied and therefore offer many ways for you to connect, learn, inspire and give back. Be examples of the power of a JWU education:

- Attend local, regional and national alumni chapter and campus events.
- Return to campus to lecture in our classrooms and reminisce with faculty and fellow alumni.
- Meet prospective students and families at Admissions Information Meetings and JWU Previews across the country.
- Participate in on-campus recruiting.
- Fund scholarships and student support.

Recent economic conditions have severely impacted our students and their families. More than 90 percent demonstrate financial need. JWU is dedicated to making the dream of higher education a reality for students who are committed to achievement and the career-focused education for which JWU is renowned worldwide. In line with 2017: The Centennial Plan, the university has budgeted \$143 million in institutional aid to new and returning students for the 2012–2013 academic year. But even that is not enough. You need to continue to play a significant role in the development of your alma mater. Only by working together can we ensure future generations have access to affordable, quality education.

Together we can strengthen our university, make it an even more vibrant educational institution and maintain its position as a national leader of career education. Read *JWU Magazine* when it arrives in your mailbox. It will keep you up-to-date on the latest university developments, campus happenings and achievements of your fellow alumni. Pass it along to others to make them more aware of our university community. Only you can carry the flag of JWU one street farther than it reaches today. You are ambassadors of the university.

We look forward to the next chapter of your relationship with JWU. Write to us anytime at jwumagazine@jwu.edu. We'll be waiting to hear from you.

Chancellor John J. Bowen '77

JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Loreen Chant '89, North Miami

Robin Krakowsky '88, '08 Ed.D., Denver

Arthur Gallagher, Charlotte



Your Support Ensures Our Relevance

FROM THE ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT



After serving as Philadelphia Chapter president for nine years and as Alumni Council vice president for one year, I now have the honor of serving as your new Alumni Council president. I must admit it's going to be a difficult task to follow in the footsteps of our outgoing president, Staceyann Sinclair '01. I appreciate all of her efforts and her unselfish service to the university. Knowing Staceyann, we will continue to benefit from her involvement.

As president, I will focus on increasing active alumni participation and support of the university's strategic objectives. We hope to improve channels of communication and look for ways to deepen engagement through affinity-based programs. Our chapters will continue to aid in student recruitment, develop scholarship programs and enhance student and professional growth. Together we can influence the future of our alma mater and build a legacy that will maintain the name of the university while strengthening our reputation and increasing the value of our degrees.

As new alumni, you are encouraged to frequently visit our alumni website and Facebook page to stay connected and abreast of pertinent activities within our chapter network. There are many avenues to reconnect and get involved with your local chapter. Please contact your local chapter president and offer your time and talent. It is through your active support that our alumni chapters remain relevant and growing.

As we move forward, I ask for your candid feedback and suggestions, and I encourage you to email me and let me know what issues are important to you.

Best Wishes,

Bryant McCombs '87
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Online >

alumni.jwu.edu

www.facebook.com/jwualumni

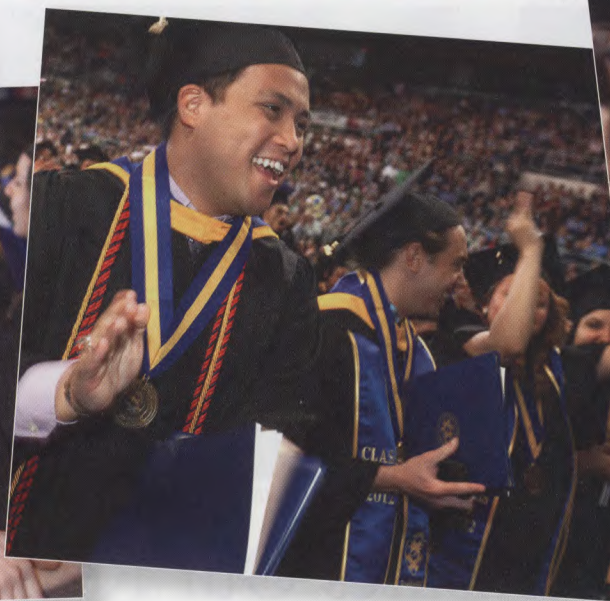
Register with Our Alumni Network

Sign on at
alumni.jwu.edu to

- Stay informed about campus news.
- Learn about local, regional and campus events.
- Gain access to members-only areas of JWU's online alumni community.
- Receive *JWU Magazine*.

Your relationship with the JWU community didn't end at graduation. Explore what's available as a member of our growing alliance of successful alumni. We look forward to seeing you back on campus soon.

Become a fan at
[facebook.com/jwualumni](https://www.facebook.com/jwualumni)



BIG EAST Commissioner: 'You Will Carry Yo

BY MADELINE PARMENTER AND MIRIAM WEINSTEIN '08 MBA

Standing tall amid the nearly 900 students lining up at the Dunkin' Donut Center's cavernous back entrance, Brittini Rhima Alahmar '12 is easy to spot. Unlike her friend with a soft raspberry hue to her wispy hair, Alahmar's is a vibrant teal. When asked what she's carrying, she spreads her arms like a peacock's tail and says, "Nothing. I have nothing. I have all of my friends here. I don't need anything." Her diploma is stacked with others on a table inside.

Nearby, Soda Marrieme Sylla '12 adjusts her academic hood over her shoulders and smiles shyly. Originally from Senegal and now living in Pawtucket, R.I., she carries herself with grace and nervous anticipation as she joins the crowd flowing into the ceremony, moments from obtaining her bachelor's degree in culinary arts and food service management.

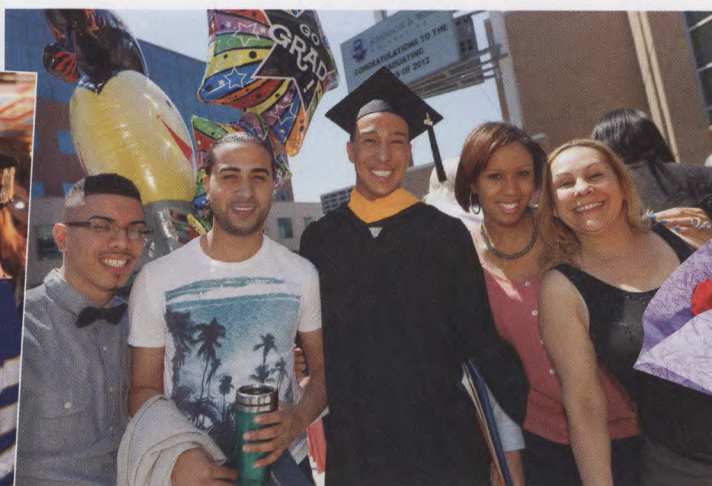
Once inside, student speaker Chantell Kennedy-Shehan '12, a culinary nutrition major, challenges classmates to excel. "Perfection is something each and every one of us should strive for, whether it be during the dinner rush, finishing a wedding cake, ensuring that every customer has the best hotel stay or helping

someone achieve their goal weight," she says. "The desire for perfection is what drives us forward, keeps us pushing for more and thinking that no goal is out of reach. Strive for perfection and hope that you never think you have achieved it."

Daniel Boulud '12 Hon., chef-owner of Restaurant Daniel, receives an honorary doctorate in culinary arts. Michael Tranghese '12 Hon., former commissioner of the BIG EAST Conference, delivers the keynote address and is awarded an honorary Doctor of Business Administration in Sports, Entertainment and Event Management. Tranghese speaks from the heart, using one small index card to deliver what President Mim Runey, LPD., says is one of the most powerful commencement speeches she's ever heard.

"As I look back on my time ... there were three traits that typified those that were successful," Tranghese tells the graduates. "One was hard work. Second, they had a passion for what they were doing. And third, and most importantly, they never wavered regarding their integrity."

"Integrity is something that you will carry for the rest of your life," he says with conviction.



The Class of 2012 capped off commencement with colorful displays at ceremonies at Providence's Dunkin' Donuts Center.

Our Integrity for a Lifetime

"And trust me, when you get to this position in life, integrity will mean more to you than how many cars you have, how many boats you have, how many sport jackets you have. Because integrity will define you."

Later in the day, the afternoon ceremony sees 745 business and technology students march together for the final time as undergraduates.

Student speaker Jenna Marcoccio '12 describes how a learning disability kept her from taking the SATs and made her think that college wasn't in her cards. But after a layoff from an entry-level position in a travel agency, she realized she had to try again. Now, at 27, not only has she earned a B.S. in graphic design and digital media, she is the commencement speaker for her class.

"You never know," is the theme of the speech given by honorary degree recipient Brian Goldner '12 Hon., president and CEO of Hasbro Inc., one of the nation's leading toymakers.

Goldner was a government major who started doing radio work on the side. The hobby revealed his true passion to be in media, which led to work in advertising and a career with Hasbro. Under his leadership, the company has become an

international conglomerate, turning its products into TV shows, movies and DVDs (think "Transformers"). Bringing toys to life on the big screen was one of his big ideas — one that many in Hollywood told him would never be successful. Goldner didn't listen and instead positioned Hasbro as a media player. He knew Hasbro had to adapt or go the way of other companies that are now out of business — Blockbuster, Kodak and Circuit City — because they couldn't change with the times. In the face of naysayers, he persevered because "you never know."

His parting advice is from his mother. "Live life like everything you do will be on the front page of the newspaper or be posted on Twitter or Facebook ... because, in today's world, you never know."

Total Degrees Awarded	1,935
College of Business	620
College of Culinary Arts	402
The Hospitality College	491
School of Technology	125
College of Culinary Arts and The Hospitality College	297
B.S. Degrees	1,687
A.S. Degrees	248



Providence Campus

98th Undergraduate Commencement
Dunkin' Donuts Center

COLLEGE OF CULINARY ARTS AND THE HOSPITALITY COLLEGE

Honorary Degree Recipients

Doctor of Business Administration in Sports, Entertainment and Event Management (Commencement Speaker)

Michael A. Tranghese

Former Commissioner
BIG EAST Conference
Providence, R.I.

Doctor of Culinary Arts

Daniel Boulud

Chef-Owner
Restaurant Daniel
New York, N.Y.

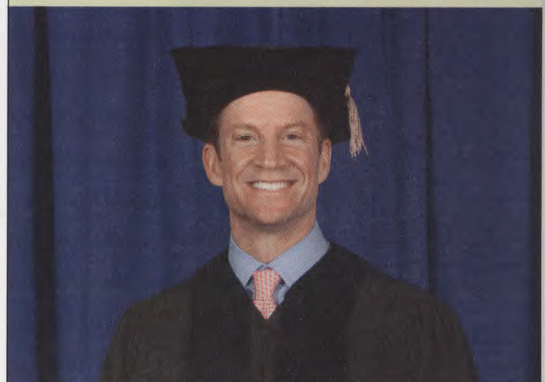
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Honorary Degree Recipient

Doctor of Business Administration (Commencement Speaker)

Brian D. Goldner

President and CEO
Hasbro Inc.
Pawtucket, R.I.



TOP, L-R: Daniel Boulud '12 Hon. and Michael Tranghese '12 Hon.
ABOVE: Brian Goldner '12 Hon.



ASF Graduates Step into Their Futures in H

BY LISA PELOSI

"I hope you all chose a stylish shoe tonight to set you apart from the rest. I know I did," student speaker Monica Govey '12 told classmates at the 26th Commencement of Johnson & Wales University's Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School as she extolled the value of individuality.

Styles ranged from rockin'-red high-tops and black ankle boots to white, off-white, beige, taupe and silver heels. Platform sandals, espadrilles, red, black, white sneakers and golden 5-inch stilettos contrasted iconic black commencement gowns as graduates crossed the stage at Providence Performing Arts Center on May 17. Each also wore a smile of happiness and pride when their name was called from among the 389 graduates receiving advanced degrees during the ceremony.

"If you had to pick one word that might be the definition of a Johnson & Wales student, that word would be 'purposeful,' noted Charles Cook, Ph.D., '12 Hon., retiring as JWU's senior vice president of university affairs, and recipient of an honorary Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership.

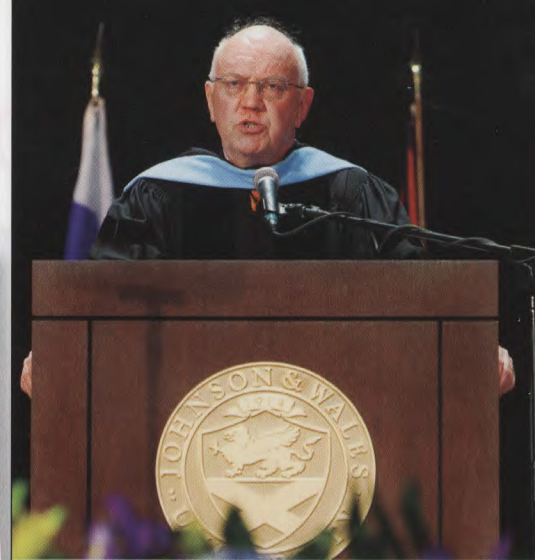
"You know what you want and what you want to be; you have clear career goals; you have

a plan to get there, which includes the degrees you are earning this evening. You are willing to work hard, making sacrifices if necessary. You are pragmatic and independent and you give every indication of taking this intense purposefulness into the workplace where you will excel."

The description reflects Cook's own long, distinguished academic career. In addition to the newly bestowed honorary degree from JWU, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland at College Park. Before joining JWU in 2005, he was director of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, a regional accrediting body. A consummate educator, Cook started in the classroom as a full-time faculty member at Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio and taught as an adjunct instructor at the University of Maryland, DePaul University and Harvard University.

Presiding at her first commencement as COO and president of the Providence Campus, Mim Runey, LP.D., resplendent in a brilliant white robe with navy blue stripes on each sleeve, made note of the university's own history.

Ceremonies for Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School at Providence Performing Arts Center included hooding of 22 doctoral candidates.



Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School

26th Graduate Commencement

Providence Performing Arts Center

Total Degrees Awarded	389
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership	22
Master of Arts in Teaching	17
Master of Business Administration	346
Master of Education	4

Honorary Degree Recipient

*Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership
(Commencement Speaker)*

Charles Malcolm Cook, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President of University Affairs
Johnson & Wales University
Providence, R.I.

> student awards

For a complete list of student award recipients:

Online > www.jwu.edu/commencement

ABOVE: Charles Cook, Ph.D., '12 Hon.

gh Style

"Just as our graduates are reflecting back and celebrating all they've achieved, so too is Johnson & Wales. As the university approaches its centennial celebration in 2014, we also have an eye toward an exciting future," said Runey. "Our growth from a small, one-classroom school into a nationally recognized university with more than 17,000 students stands as a testament to the power of experiential education. And our global reach is expressed through the cultural diversity of our graduating class, which is represented through the variety of flags standing behind me," she added. "You'll leave here today as part of a network of nearly 90,000 alumni."

Included in the graduate school Class of 2012 were 22 men and women who earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, a terminal degree representing the highest level of academic achievement. One by one, candidates were presented by Jeffrey Senese, Ph.D., vice president

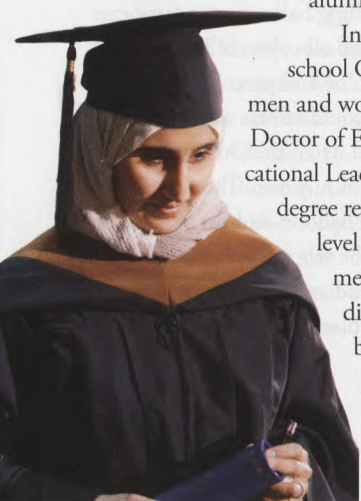
of academic affairs, along with degree path, dissertation title, and name of major advisor. A doctoral hood was placed over each head by the director of the university's doctoral program, Thomas DiPaola, Ph.D., and graduates were congratulated by dean of the graduate school, Frank Sargent, Ed.D.

The evening saw the theater almost filled to capacity with friends, family and mentors anxiously trying to identify their graduate proceeding to and from the stage. Digital cameras, smart phones and video cameras captured what will become memories of a night marked by achievement.

"Take the risks, speak up and trust in yourself. Forge your own path and remember it's never too late to chart a new one," Govey concluded. "With your three tools — academics, experience and network — stuffed into your laptop bag, you are ready to go after your goals and successfully achieve them.

"Bring the best you to the table and never try to be someone else. It's your value, so own it and express it."

Measured by the individuality of footwear choices on display, JWU graduates are already one step ahead.

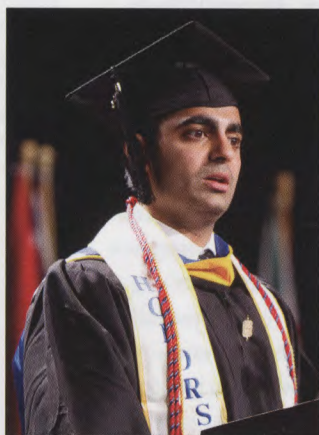


jwu:north miami



Grads Encouraged to Pursue Their Passion and

BY TONYA EVANS



When the Broward County Convention Center opened its doors, graduates and their families poured into the hall. Moms, dads, friends, siblings, grandparents and well-wishers smiled and hugged each other in celebration of Commencement 2012, the 19th for the North Miami Campus. As

students headed toward the staging rooms to line up, they waved at loved ones, knowing that they were departing as students but would return as college graduates.

The energy was palpable as the academic procession began, followed by the international

flag procession and presentation of colors. Local vocalist Marilyn Caserta brought the audience to its feet with a stirring delivery of the national anthem before President Loreen Chant '89 introduced student speaker Ahmed Raza '12. The management major addressed the mood of his fellow classmates as they looked toward their futures.

"I would like to share a true story that I was once told by my dad; a story of a balloon seller, who made his living selling balloons at a fair," Raza recounted. "He had all colors of balloons, including red, yellow, blue and green. Whenever business was slow, he would release a helium-filled balloon into the air and when the children saw it go up, they all wanted to buy one. They would come up to him, buy a balloon and his sales would go up again. One day, he felt someone tugging his jacket. He turned around and saw a little boy who asked, 'If you release a black balloon, would that



Students and their parents celebrated the major milestone of Commencement 2012 at Broward County Convention Center.



Remember Those Who Led the Way

also fly?' Moved by the boy's concern, the man replied with empathy, 'Son, it is not the color of the balloon that matters, it is what is inside that makes it go up.'

"All of us here are graduating with diverse majors, but from inside we all belong to Johnson & Wales University, and it is this recognition that will make us go up," he concluded.

Ceremonies continued with speeches by JWU's 2012 honorary degree recipients, Catherine Liggins Hughes, founder and chairperson of Radio One Inc. in Lanham, Md., and Charles Arthur Smith, executive chef of The Art Smith Co. of Chicago, Ill.

Doctor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship recipient Hughes, the first African American woman to lead a publicly traded company, began her remarks by

encouraging the audience to pursue their goals and dreams while never forgetting those who helped them to be successful.

Receiving a doctor of culinary arts degree, Smith said, "Food is a way of expressing ourselves in a human way that everyone understands." He advised graduates to remember how fortunate they are and to share their passion and relate with others during times of joy and sadness.

Commencement represents a turning point for each student, and as the final graduate's name was read and the students looked toward their futures, Raza's words rang true. There is nowhere for this class to go but up, up and away.



North Miami Campus

19th Undergraduate
Commencement
Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward
County Convention Center

Total Degrees Awarded	360
College of Business	88
The Hospitality College	104
College of Culinary Arts	92
College of Culinary Arts and The Hospitality College	76
B.S. Degrees	275
A.S. Degrees	85

Honorary Degree Recipients

*Doctor of Culinary Arts
(Commencement Speaker)*

Charles Arthur Smith
Executive Chef
The Art Smith Co.
Chicago, Ill.

*Doctor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship
(Commencement Speaker)*

Catherine Liggins Hughes
Founder and Chairperson
Radio One Inc.
Lanham, Md.

> student awards

For a complete list of student
award recipients:

Online > www.jwu.edu/commencement

TOP, L-R: Catherine Liggins Hughes '12 Hon.
and Charles Smith '12 Hon.



Rain Dampens Ceremony but Not Cel

BY JOHN T. ROGERS '06

For the past 11 years, the Denver Campus has held its commencement ceremony on campus, outside, on Coors Family Commons. The sight of graduates sitting in rows of blue chairs on the perfectly manicured lawn with historic Treat Hall and bountiful flower gardens in the background, along with the bagpiper who plays as the graduates take their seats, can raise goosebumps.

But for staff organizing the event, the stress of dealing with Colorado's crazy and unpredictable spring weather is enough to make them run for the hills. Weeks before, they begin daily checks of weather reports for signs guests will get soaked or sunburned.

"These students have spent four years diligently working towards this moment, and unfortunately the unpredictable weather that Colorado offers us can either make the day incredible or a challenge," said Mike Gallegos, assistant director of athletics, who helps plan commencement.

JWU's newest graduates have been favored with sunny warmth in all the years past. But Saturday

morning, May 19, brought a steady rainfall and brisk, 44-degree weather as close to 300 graduates, 200 faculty and staff and more than 3,000 guests arrived on campus with jackets, ponchos and umbrellas. Conditions were less than ideal, but outdoor ceremonies allow space for graduates' friends and families, so people made the best of it. Spirits were high. Graduates were still beaming with excitement and the smiles on their parents' faces made the day brighter.

"We are about to embark on a journey — one with gains and losses, accomplishments and disappointments — and one thing I can guarantee is that this journey will be full of tidal waves that will knock us down," student speaker Emily Abens '12 reminded the graduates.

"Today, as you enter a new era in your life, don't forget to swim through those tidal waves. Once they pass and you surface, it will be a breath of fresh air; a moment of pure clarity of the reality you want to create for yourself, not others. Those are the moments to remember — big or small."



Rain failed to dampen spirits as graduates celebrated their accomplishments with family and friends gathered on Coors Family Commons for Commencement 2012.

oration

Abens encouraged her fellow graduates to reflect on their time at JWU and the effects those pivotal moments had on their education. "How will you use those experiences and your passion to make an impact?" Abens asked.

Her sentiments were echoed by honorary doctorate recipient Tameka Salis Montgomery, executive director of Denver Metro Small Business Development Center. She told students to use their college experiences — both good and bad — to launch a successful career. "People are placed into our lives for a reason," she explained, telling them to take every opportunity to listen and learn from them. Her remarks were short, partly due to the rain, but also to show the graduates that the answer is simple: Do your best; be your best and success



will follow you wherever you go.

After Denver Campus President Robin Krakowsky '88, '08 Ed.D., closed the ceremony, the crowd rose to its feet and cheered. Together, as a team, staff had done their best to make sure graduates and their families had the best experience they could under the circumstances.

As planning begins for Commencement 2013, Wells Fargo Theater at Colorado Convention Center, an indoor venue in downtown Denver, has been booked. Although the tradition of holding ceremonies on campus ends this year, the spirit of JWU will follow students wherever they may go.



Denver Campus

12th Undergraduate Commencement Coors Family Commons

Total Degrees Awarded	295
College of Business	39
The Hospitality College	62
College of Culinary Arts	144
College of Culinary Arts and The Hospitality College	50
B.S. Degrees	202
A.S. Degrees	93

Honorary Degree Recipient

*Doctor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship
(Commencement Speaker)*

Tameka Salis Montgomery

Executive Director
Denver Metro Small Business Development Center
Denver, Colo.

> student awards

For a complete list of student award recipients:

Online > www.jwu.edu/commencement

top: Tameka Salis Montgomery '12 Hon.



Class of 2012 Advised to Practice Hum

BY MELINDA LAW

It was a morning of smiles, hugs and high-fives as soon-to-be graduates lined up at 8:45 a.m. inside Time Warner Cable Arena for the campus' seventh graduation ceremony. Friends and family waited in the stands, keeping their eyes on the largest video screen in any NBA facility, hoping to catch a glimpse of a larger-than-life image of their proud student.

At 10 a.m., processional music blared and the arena was charged with energy and anticipation. Students filed in, waving, eagerly searching out loved ones, many of them armed with cellphones and taking pictures of the momentous occasion every step of the way or calling family in the stands.

Commencement student speaker Ashley Pendergraph '12 addressed her classmates with the confidence of a leader as her parents looked on with tears in their eyes.

"How will we ever know what is possible unless we reach for it?" Pendergraph asked classmates. Quoting Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," she offered a dialog on "impossible thinking."

"There is no use trying," said Alice. "One can't believe impossible things."

"I dare say you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

"These encouraging statements subliminally placed in films from our youth instilled the concept of dreaming and believing in the impossible," noted Pendergraph. "Impossible thinking enables us to believe that our dreams are within reach."

Richard Ward, co-owner and cofounder of Saintsbury vineyards in Napa Valley, Calif., this year's honorary degree recipient, was awarded a Doctor of Oenology degree. In introducing Ward, Vice President Tarun Malik '90 M.S., '11 Ed.D., recounted how Ward has always graciously made time for JWU students and shared his knowledge. "He has the uncommon ability to layer his presentations. Mr. Ward can make it simple for a freshman struggling to learn the nuances of fruit, aromas, acidity and tannins and yet provide a detailed explanation of the science of winemaking, styles and market trends to seniors," said Malik.





Family, friends and classmates filled Time Warner Cable Arena to mark the accomplishments of new Charlotte graduates.

nity

Addressing his commencement audience, Ward assured graduates, “It is OK to change your mind. Love what you do; do not settle for less.” He advised that they “honor the importance of taking care of our environment — your life and your career ultimately depend on it,” and “practice the humanity in hospitality.”

“You have wisely decided to attend college during one of the worst times in our nation’s economic history,” Ward said. “Not only have you become better educated, learned great job skills and become more mature, but you have successfully delayed one of the scariest of tasks — finding a job. Hopefully you have already found or are about to find the right position that will propel you into your successful new career.”

It was finally time to award the undergraduate degrees. More than 500 students were on the edges of their seats waiting for their turn to line up and walk across the stage. New graduates beamed from ear to ear as they accepted their diplomas and posed for a quick picture.



As each name was read, you could easily hear their fan clubs — family and friends who had waited for this moment for so long. An advantage of having commencement in an arena is that there’s room for as many family members and loved ones as students care to bring.

“Don’t cry because it’s over; smile because it happened,” concluded Pendergraph, with the words of Dr. Seuss. She was not planning much of a break between graduation, full-time work and more school. She recently accepted a pastry chef position at Mimosa Grill in Uptown Charlotte, and she plans to further her education and get her master’s degree in food science.

With the 7th Commencement exercises complete, classmates rushed out of the arena under Carolina blue skies. Their families know the diplomas they were clutching, the degrees they earned, will stay with them forever. As one parent was overheard saying, “This is something no one can take away from you.”



Charlotte Campus

7th Undergraduate Commencement Time Warner Cable Arena

Total Degrees Awarded	507
College of Business	57
The Hospitality College	117
College of Culinary Arts	168
College of Culinary Arts and The Hospitality College	165
B.S. Degrees	339
A.A.S. Degrees	168

Honorary Degree Recipients

Doctor of Oenology
(Commencement Speaker)

Richard A. Ward
Co-owner and Cofounder
Saintsbury
Napa, Calif.

> student awards

For a complete list of student
award recipients:

Online > www.jwu.edu/commencement

TOP, L-R: Richard Ward '12 Hon. and
Charlotte Campus President Art Gallagher

Greetings Class of 2012

Take a moment to think about your journey to get here. Think about your first day on campus and how you felt. Think about the life-long relationships that you established with fellow students, faculty and staff — the personal sacrifices that were made and the obstacles you've overcome. You have traveled many miles and committed countless hours, nights and summers to get to this point. Although you're moving on to new challenges and new adventures, your relationship with Johnson & Wales does not end here. It just changes form.

Today begins a new chapter in your relationship with Johnson & Wales we hope lasts a lifetime. As a member of this year's graduating class, you are about to become part of a growing network of alumni pursuing successful careers across the globe. Wherever life leads, you will continue to be embraced by the Johnson & Wales University community.

As a new graduate, you can do two important things. First, stay connected. Return to campus and share your experiences and successes. Speak to students in the classroom. Assist the university's admissions efforts. Attend campus alumni events and be actively engaged with our local alumni chapter. To keep informed about all the ways you can stay connected and involved, make sure to register on the alumni website.

Second, demonstrate your pride in, and support of, Johnson & Wales. Remember, the more the university improves, the more the value of your degree increases. So make staying in touch and giving back a priority.

Congratulations! It's official. You are now alumni. Walk proud as you carry a legacy that is gaining momentum and growing stronger with each successful class.



Judy Ross '83



Staceyann Sinclair '01



Passion+Drive=Success



BY ANDREA FELDMAN, MELINDA HILL, SHANNON ROBBINS,
DAN RYAN AND CATHERINE SENDEL

They're leading the way all over the globe, at Amazon, Marriott International, Goya Foods, Hilton Worldwide, National Intelligence and the Food Network. Two things unite these 16 graduates. One, they're driven by a bone-deep, can't-shake-it passion for their work. Two? They got their start at JWU along with tens of thousands of others. For the fifth year, we're proud to share the stories of just a few of our rising stars, culinary innovators and business leaders who are doing what they love and proudly leading their industries.

GLOBAL PLAYERS

Vinod Keni '92 MBA

**Cofounder, Chief Financial Officer
Peachtree Capital Partners;
CEO, CFO and Partner
Aavishkaar Venture Capital,
Aquarian Group of Companies**
*Atlanta, Ga.; Bangalore and Mumbai, India;
and Singapore*

"My strongest assets are my optimism and my ability to work with people," Vinod says. Positivity has served him well. His career in the business of venture capital includes cofounding and supporting new and fast-growing companies in the U.S. and India and leading two companies through NASDAQ-listed IPOs in the U.S. as CFO. Whether growing his company with no financial support, navigating the fall-out from Sept. 11 or leveraging the global business environment, Vinod has found success by relating to others with cheerful confidence. He is an active member of the Indian Angel Network, India's largest network of angel investors, mentoring and supporting companies in scaling up and raising additional capital. As he maneuvers through the changing landscape of venture capitalism, he predicts that "more successful entrepreneurs and experienced professionals will make investments and work with portfolio companies than [will] investment bankers and pure-play financial professionals."

"Whatever you do, do it with passion and dedication and show you care."

"You don't get into situations.
You put yourself there."

Jessika Ferm '96, '98 M.A.T.

Chief Operating Officer

J. Ferm LLC; Next Level Dancing LLC

Columbus, Ohio; Boston, Mass.; and Göteborg, Sweden

Running two businesses keeps Jessika quite busy, but she relishes the challenge. "I've always been an entrepreneur at heart," she says, so starting a leadership development firm in 2004 was a logical choice. A native of Sweden who also lived in Switzerland before coming to the U.S., her company, J. Ferm LLC, now has offices in the U.S. and Sweden. To maintain a work-life balance, Jessika sets aside quiet time each day to journal or meditate.

"I note a significant increase in my ability to lead my company and team successfully when I'm balanced," she says. Still, the pressures of self-employment are intense, and in 2009 she was advised to get a hobby to avoid burnout. She took a ballroom dance lesson and was hooked. Today she is a competitive amateur ballroom dancer and has started a second business coaching dancers.

Johan Nordqvist '97, '98 MBA

Regional Director, Market Management
Amadeus IT Group
Bangkok, Thailand

"The world is getting smaller," and Johan is helping it get that way by providing technology for the travel industry. "Travel will continue to grow and technology will be an important enabler of this trend," he predicts. Johan himself is a perfect example. Born in Sweden, he attended school in his homeland and the U.S., and worked in the states and Europe before moving to Thailand. "I moved to Asia to work in this very diverse and fast-growing region," he says, adding that he saw the move as an opportunity rather than a challenge. "I think my open-mindedness is my strongest asset." That positive attitude also allowed Johan to make a lot of friends from all over the world while at JWU, including his wife of 10 years, Palinee, a native of Thailand.

"An understanding of other countries and cultures, as well as of foreign languages, is a true asset in today's workplace."

Shawn Tan '01

Senior Manager, Business Development
Intermediary Distribution
Aviva Ltd.
Singapore

One of the youngest senior executives at his company, Shawn holds a portfolio of 22 local and international brokerage firms and is charged with growing investments and insurance revenues to well over \$100 million. He credits his success to his managerial skills, leading by example and genuinely caring about his employees and colleagues. "They are my greatest assets, whom I can rely on both in great times and not so good times," he says. This is particularly important in Singapore's financial services industry, which, he points out, is still maturing. Throughout his career, Shawn has also proven his ability to turn declining business channels into profitable ones. "I enjoy the process of overcoming these challenges," he explains. This knack for transforming troubled operations into success stories will serve him well if his prediction for the field holds true — that "local bankers and executives will head to developing regional markets as subject-matter experts."

"What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place will be something that you have left behind ... let it be something good."

INDUSTRY LEADERS

Loren Nalewanski '89

**Vice President, Global Brand Management
TownePlace Suites and Marriott
Executive Apartments, Marriott International**
Bethesda, Md.

"In hospitality, success is never final," says Loren, whose nearly 25-year career with Marriott includes stints in management, HR and operations. "Every position I've taken has been a great learning opportunity." He's endlessly inspired by the industry's complexities. "Platform skills — communication, overall message delivery — are important, but you can never forget the execution side of our business." In the future, he predicts, "the winners will be those that can harness social media to personalize and flawlessly execute guest experiences." To new graduates, he emphasizes that lateral moves within any organization can be a great way to excel. "Think of career progression as a lattice rather than a ladder." Always ready for the next challenge, Loren is currently "laser-focused" on Marriott's extended-stay business with one higher priority. "My wife also works for Marriott, and we learned early on that family time is precious. With four kids, we make sure to live in the moment."

"Choose a job you love, and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

— CONFUCIUS

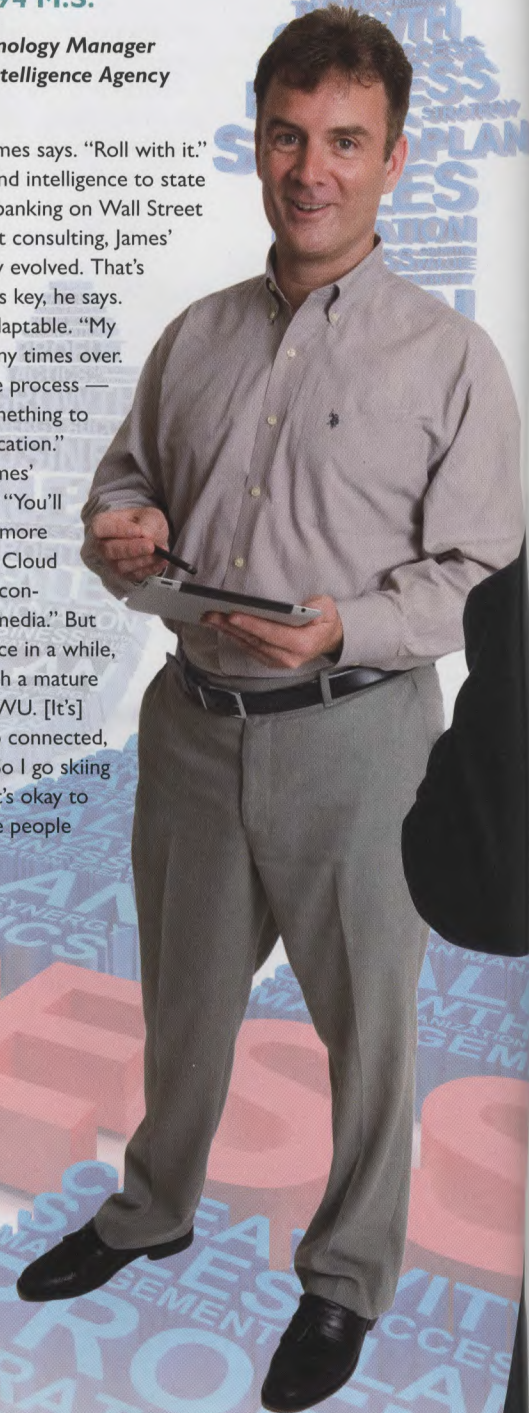


"I like technology for facilitation, but it should not take the place of human interaction. I'm still a face-to-face guy."

James Crowley '94 M.S.

**System Engineer; Technology Manager
National Geospatial Intelligence Agency**
Washington, D.C.

"Change is constant," James says. "Roll with it." From national security and intelligence to state government, corporate banking on Wall Street and Big Five management consulting, James' tech career has definitely evolved. That's why his time at JWU was key, he says. It helped him become adaptable. "My degree paid for itself many times over. JWU fosters the creative process — whether it's creating something to eat, or a computer application." That's essential, since James' industry is transforming. "You'll see technology working more the way I want to work. Cloud computing. On-demand content. No more physical media." But you have to "unplug" once in a while, too. "We didn't have such a mature Internet when I was at JWU. [It's] kind of nice not to be so connected, like students are today. So I go skiing in Salt Lake City, Utah. It's okay to disconnect and enjoy the people around you."



Claude Booker III '90, '91 M.S.

President and Founder
Simply Southern Sides
Atlanta, Ga.

"My vision was to preserve the authentic flavors of my Southern heritage — in a way that is both healthy and quick," says Claude. "And JWU served as instant credibility to establish myself in the restaurant and prepared foods industry." These days, you can pick up Claude's mac n' cheese, black-eyed peas, okra and 25 other Simply Southern Sides at more than 500 grocery stores nationwide. Boil it in a bag and you have a quick, convenient, down-home classic for dinner. It's also comfort food for troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar and Bahrain. Claude has secured contracts with the Department of Defense, feeding soldiers overseas and at Ft. Benning in Georgia. In fact, *Government Food Service* magazine named his company a Top 100 Supplier for military troop support. For a man whose favorite quote is "I was hungry and you gave me food," that's a good feeling.

"It's only failure when you fail to get back up. Once I realized that, I was on my way."

"Paraphrasing Louis Pasteur,
'Luck favors the well-prepared.'"

John Boettger '83

Senior Vice President, Americas Division
Asset Management & Real Estate
Hilton Worldwide
McLean, Va.

Globalization, technology and increased efficiency are the keys to hospitality's future, says John Boettger, who sees global development as the next industry frontier. Although he currently oversees a 28,000-strong domestic hotel portfolio that stretches from Boston to Hawaii, he understands that his business is increasingly global. "If you want to succeed, you have to be willing to move internationally," he says. "Be prepared. Learn a second or third language." Also crucial: keeping up with social media to engage customers and create customized hotel experiences. "With today's technology, don't plan on being off the clock too often if you want to excel. The ability to multitask is your greatest asset." Maintaining a work-life balance can be tough with a packed schedule, but John gets home as much as he can. "The luxury of time is my favorite guilty pleasure."



Passion+Drive=

CULINARY VISIONARIES

Fernando Desa '01

Executive Chef, Product Development Manager
Goya Foods
Secaucus, N.J.

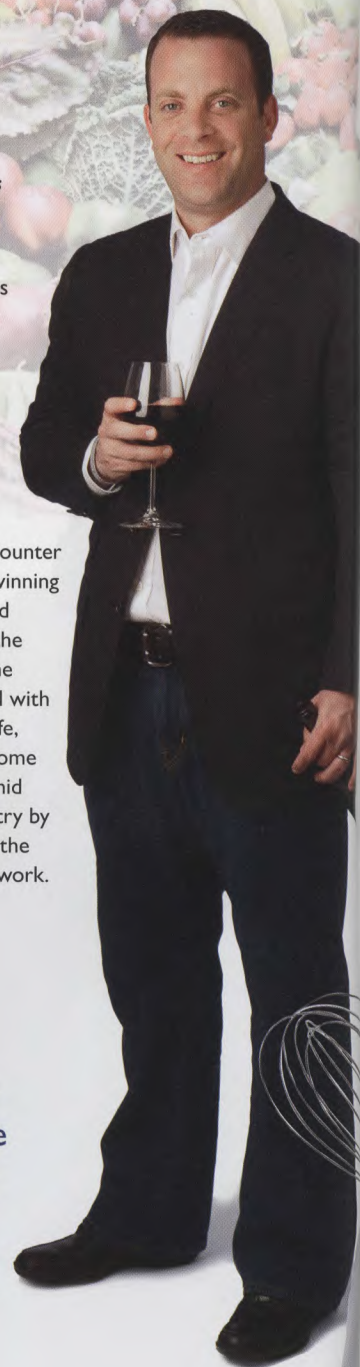
Since his first day as "head chef of the class" at JWU, Fernando's creativity and palate have been shaped by masters: Aaron Wratten at Horned Dorset Primavera Resort in Puerto Rico; Peter Timmins at Tavern Room Restaurant at Greenbrier Resort; Kettle Cuisine's Volker Frick. He's cooked for golfer Jack Nicklaus and friends and whipped up a six-course meal for six in an hour for his company's president. His challenge at Goya, the largest Hispanic-owned food company in the U. S., is to fuse ingredients from around the world with tastes and methods handed down through generations to create authentic and refined Latin American flavors in its 1,600 products. Then Fernando teams with Goya's marketing department to address the changing lifestyles and diets of today's consumers. A strong competitor and leader, he still relishes the role of head chef. In the work-life balance equation, "Cooking is my life."



Jeff Weinstein '98

CEO
The Counter® Custom Built Burgers
CB Franchise Systems LLC
Los Angeles, Calif.

In sunny California where burger stops are in or out, Jeff Weinstein's growing empire has staying power. In a 2003 career leap, Jeff sold his hit Firefly restaurant in Studio City to partners and launched The Counter in Santa Monica with 312,000 mix-and-match burger options. As an independent entrepreneur, he built one store into CB Franchise Systems LLC and The Counter Custom Built Burgers into an award-winning brand with 31 stores in nine states and international locations in Ireland and the Middle East. He's now poised to do the same for the neighborhood-bar model with Freddy Smalls Bar + Kitchen. With wife, daughter and newborn twin boys at home in Los Angeles, he finds life balance amid the demands of the hospitality industry by compartmentalizing and being in the moment at either home or at work.



"Cooking is like science. Combining proper ingredients in correct proportions will give you a good result, but making it look good and taste delicious is an art!"



“Nothing is more valuable than good old-fashioned work ethic, determination and dedication. I can teach anyone skills but you can’t teach someone to have passion and drive.”

Lena Kwak '07

Cofounder C4C
Research and Development Chef
The French Laundry
 Yountville, Calif.

An interest in nutrition sparked in JWU's labs has Lena on a mission to bring "high quality food products and more nutritious options to the general public." Broader horizons led from her native New York to the Napa Valley kitchen of The French Laundry. As protégé of food guru Thomas Keller '03 Hon., she refined a gluten-free cup-for-cup alternative to all-purpose flour. Together they formed C4C, and along with gourmet retailer Williams-Sonoma are making it available to home cooks nationwide. Selected for both *Forbes'* and *Zagat's* 2011 lists for "30 Under 30" notables in the food and wine industry, Lena responded with characteristic humility. "It was quite a surprise and honor," she says, admitting her biggest challenge is "owning up to who I am and what my capabilities are. Simply put, I've learned to embrace my self-esteem and increase my confidence in myself." That righted, ambition, her strongest asset, means better food for all.

“Don’t be afraid to dream big and truly believe in yourself.”

Martha Leahy '97

Vice President, Executive Chef and Purchasing
Margaritas Restaurant Group
 Portsmouth, N.H.

Since Martha abandoned a career in finance for the culinary arts, she has prepared food for retail markets, catered to corporate tastes and worked for fast casual and fine dining establishments in the Northeast and overseas. Ever since her first stint in Italy at 30 which earned her the respect of a head chef who initially protested working with someone "old, an American, and a woman," Martha has been rising to challenges. She's developed products for Star Market Wild Harvest and led its Home Meal Replacement Group and was assistant director of education at Cambridge School of Culinary Arts. Now responsible for food and drink development and purchasing for Margaritas' 22 restaurants, she travels to Mexico yearly to bring back new tastes and ingredients. "Love for teaching people how to cook and turning people on to technique and flavors" is Martha's strongest asset. Her favorite pursuit is "to entertain and cook for friends and family without restrictions."

“You’re not a chef until you reduce, reduce, reduce.”



RISING STARS

"All your dreams need to start with a plan along with back-up strategies."

Linda Whitford '05 MBA

*Director of Business Intelligence
GTECH Corp.
Providence, R.I.*

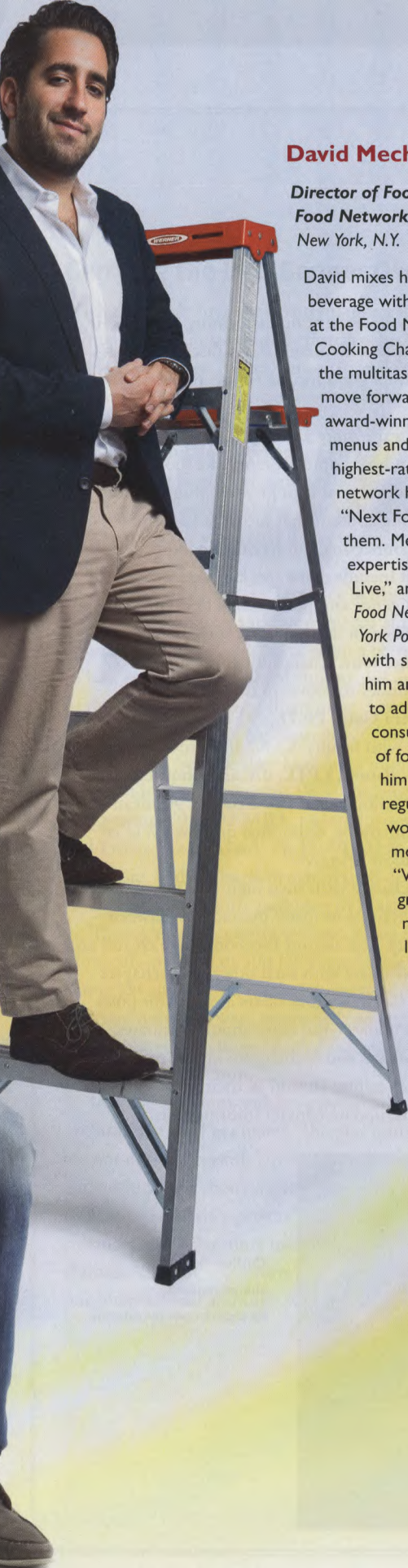
The future of the gaming industry "is undeniably in the online space. While traditional brick and mortar retailers will still have a prominent space, the Internet, mobile phones and the like are the future," Linda believes. At GTECH Corp., a global leader in gaming technology headquartered in Providence, R.I., her organizational skills and ability to multitask have her in front of a competitive team. Linda develops strategies, analyzes competitors' financials and business plans and watches market conditions to target future trends and new concepts for product marketing. Whitford considers her biggest career milestone rising through the ranks to become director. Her MBA from JWU gave her the confidence to apply for her current position. It "opened up doors which otherwise would have been shut for me." Odds of even greater success are in her favor.

Zakarya Baza '04

*Web Service Finance Operations Manager
Amazon.com
Seattle, Wash.*

Zakarya left his small-town comfort zone to move to technology hub, Seattle, Wash., and has been rewarded with three promotions since joining Amazon.com in 2005. Acting as "an important bridge between the technical side and the business side," he's expanded Amazon's asset management team and manages a team of finance and business analysts, working with banks and allocating funds globally. Originally from Morocco, Zakarya views his diversity as his strongest asset. More than ever, the global workforce requires working with people from different cultures and skill sets across different geographic locations, he says. "Understanding and appreciating other ways of thinking is invaluable." Web services are the way of the future, he predicts, "providing great financial incentives for customers and making a positive environmental impact."

"Do not be afraid to take risks and explore beyond your comfort zone."



David Mechlowicz '04

Director of Food and Beverage
Food Network and Cooking Channel
New York, N.Y.

David mixes his skills in food and beverage with his talent for television at the Food Network and its spinoff Cooking Channel. He is master of the multitask — “the only way to move forward in life” — producing award-winning programming, menus and products for six of the highest-rated television shows in network history, “Iron Chef” and “Next Food Network Star” among them. Mechlowicz displays his own expertise on shows like “Emeril Live,” and in publications including *Food Network Magazine* and the *New York Post*. Working for a company with successful websites gives him an opportunity he relishes to add to the average consumer’s knowledge of food. His job has him cooking and dining regularly on some of the world’s best fare with its most celebrated chefs. “While these things are great, there’s nothing more gratifying than learning from them,” Mechlowicz says.

“Network as much as possible and never take ‘no’ for an answer. If someone tells you, ‘no,’ annoy them until they say, ‘yes.’”



Mashari Perry '02

Vice President
GMMB, Omnicom Agency
Washington, D.C.

“What could have been perceived as my biggest challenge — being laid off in 2009 — ended up launching me into an amazing new chapter of my career and life,” Mashari says. Her tenacity to reach the goals she’s set for herself led to her current role as vice president for GMMB, a communications firm in Washington, D.C., working “for clients who are out to make the world a better place for people.” Mashari oversees accounts, helping change behavior and provide strategic counsel for projects including the \$27 million unwasteNY statewide campaign to save energy. She also led the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) launch of its redesigned AIDSTAR-One.com, a global resource for HIV-AIDs. In May she was welcomed by the World Economic Forum to its new Global Shapers D.C. Hub. “It feels good knowing I am exactly where I was supposed to be — for such a time as this.”

“There is nothing more important than moving humanity forward in our level of existence and sustainable inter-connectedness.”

Conference Realigns Chapters With Goals

The JWU Alumni Council kicked off 2012 with a revamped Chapter Leadership Conference in January. Representatives from all 22 alumni chapters, the Student Alumni Association and Alumni Relations staff came together to discuss the JWU alumni family.

The weekend began with a relaxed welcome reception. Returning chapter leaders and staff, excited to see old friends and meet new ones, mingled with those attending for the first time, enthusiastic to get to know leaders from other chapters and to be supported by the university.

Saturday and Sunday were spent brainstorming ways to improve the alumni chapters. Representatives discussed what's worked and what hasn't, set goals for the future and considered how to achieve them.

The first goal is to engage more alumni. Toward that end, chapters will continue to host popular events like food tastings and sporting events. Another goal is to provide programming with a purpose — offering content that provides benefits beyond networking, reconnecting and having a good time. Future gatherings might include guest speakers and workshops to bolster cultural intelligence and professional development.

University leaders joined in the activities, speaking to the group and answering questions. Chancellor **John Bowen '77** detailed how JWU continues to move up the ranks among universities. Provost **Veera Gaul, Ph.D., '91 M.S.**, encouraged alumni to stay in touch with faculty. COO and Providence Campus President **Mim Runey, LP.D.**, discussed how each campus is establishing traditions and **Bill Priante '90**, dean of Providence Campus Admissions, elaborated on how JWU is becoming increasingly more selective.

Motivated by the exchange with such high-ranking officials, chapter leaders outlined tactics to foster interaction between alumni and the university. The alumni Facebook page creates an easy way for alumni to connect with each other, their chapter and the university. The social network offers a center for posts about events, university updates and news about classmates, as well as an outlet for feedback and exchanging ideas. In addition, chapter leaders will begin calling alumni in their areas to build personal connections and update contact information.



ABOVE: JWU administration, staff and alumni chapter leaders gather around Willie the Wildcat at the Chapter Leadership Conference in January.

RIGHT: Chapter leaders met to discuss new initiatives along with JWU Chancellor John Bowen '77.



Online >
alumni.jwu.edu
facebook.com/jwualumni

Carrying the JWU Banner Overseas

With the steady increase of international students, establishing a formal international alumni effort has become an imperative for Johnson & Wales. “Today, international students and alumni are an integral part of the fabric of the university and its future,” says

Kenneth Levy, senior vice president of special projects.

Growth and development of JWU’s international alumni communities began last summer with broad efforts to engage graduates around the globe. Through social media and key contacts, JWU spread the word that it was trying to reconnect with its alumni living overseas.

This winter, Levy and **Terrence Williams ’89**, executive director of strategic planning and international alumni relations, set out on an inaugural trip abroad to develop a better understanding of how to best engage international alumni and determine what aspects of the university interest them most. Istanbul, Turkey; Bangkok, Thailand; Taipei, Taiwan; Shanghai, China; and Seoul, South Korea were selected because they have large numbers of alumni and are the homelands of many current JWU students. At the same time, **Karl Guggenmos ’93, ’02 MBA**, university dean of culinary education and Provost **Veera Gaul, Ph.D., ’91 M.S.** met with alumni in Singapore, and **Richard Brush**, retired dean of The Hospitality College, gathered with graduates in Malaysia.

Through the university website, social media and word of mouth, more than 500 JWU graduates in those cities were contacted and invited to participate in small focus group dinners. Personal networks were particularly strong in Istanbul, Bangkok and Seoul, where alumni spread the word and substantially increased participation.

In total, Williams and Levy personally connected with more than 100 international graduates. The pair found that alumni overseas are not only successful, but very proud of their JWU experience and enthusiastic about staying involved. As future trips are planned to Europe and other parts of Asia, university departments will collaborate to offer more meaningful opportunities for international alumni. “Combining efforts will enable a deeper connection with our international alumni,” Williams points out.

RIGHT: Turkey’s celebrity chef Mehmet Gurs ’93 and Irmak Otrac ’98 MBA socialize in Gurs’ test kitchen in Istanbul.



ABOVE, LEFT: Employees at SALT Bistro hang a JWU banner at the alumni reception in Istanbul, Turkey in February. **RIGHT:** Chef Kornan Buyuksuda ’07 greets guests at the American Hospitality Academy in Istanbul.

BELOW: Turkish alumni gathered at SALT Bistro in Istanbul for a JWU Alumni Relations international reception.



International Receptions

From mid-February to early March, more than 100 international alumni enthusiastically participated in events that stretched from Singapore to Seoul, South Korea.

> RIGHT: A Bangkok reception was held at St. Regis Hotel



Bangkok



Taipei

> L-R: Terrence Williams '89, Nancy Wang '02, Ken Levy, Shellyee Loh '99, Chris Wu '99 M.S., Agnes Gan '02, '05 MBA and son

> L-R: Kenneth Levy, Cheng Qian '09 MBA, Philip Lu '95 and Terrence Williams '89



Taipei



Shanghai



Buddhist Temple

Shanghai

> RIGHT: Alumni in Seoul, South Korea at Top Cloud Restaurant.

▼ Kenneth Levy and tour guide Judy Du in Shanghai



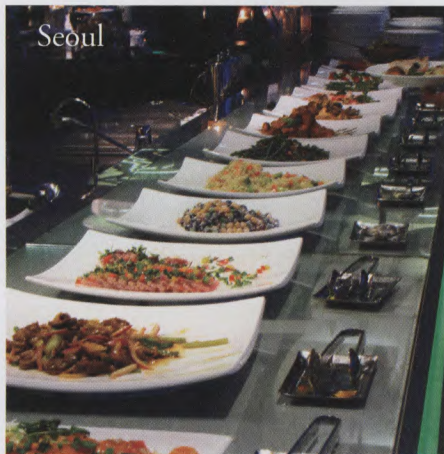
Seoul



Shanghai

> Delicacies at Top Cloud Restaurant

▼ Will Khoo, Provost Veera Gaul, PhD, '91 M.S., Nicola Cordoz '98 and Dean Karl Guggenmos '93, '02 MBA



Seoul

> L-R: Chef Hae Jeong Lee a.k.a. Big Mama, Kenneth Levy, KiHak Lim '05, Byongwook Koh '07 and Joon Young Koh '06



Seoul

Singapore



Malaysia



< LEFT: Dean Richard Brush and alumni in Malaysia

Message from the Outgoing Alumni Council President



During my time as Alumni Council president, I witnessed a number of firsts that will lead to exciting engagement opportunities for our alumni in the near future. From campus panel discussions to alumni business exchanges and reunions, our alumni found meaningful ways to give back and to stay connected. I'm proud of our accomplishments and look forward to what Bryant McCombs '87, our new Alumni Council president, will achieve during his tenure.

You are part of a vast network of alumni pursuing successful careers across the globe, now more than 89,000 strong. As new alumni, supporting your local alumni chapter, assisting with recruiting new students and supporting the JWU Fund should be top priorities. Your support helps to ensure that the university succeeds in providing exceptional learning experiences for future students, increasing the value of your own degree. As I settle into the role of past president of the Alumni Council, I look forward to attending alumni events and connecting with as many of you as possible.

Best Wishes,

Staceyann Sinclair '01

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Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Terrence Williams '89

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Karen McGibbon '00

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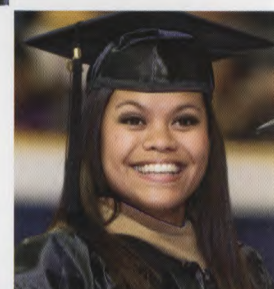
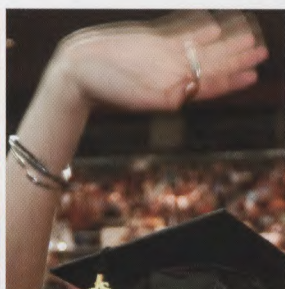
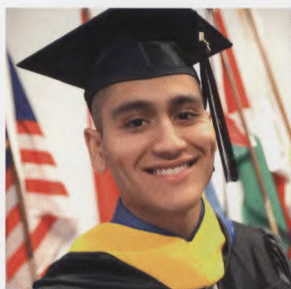
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Tampa Bay

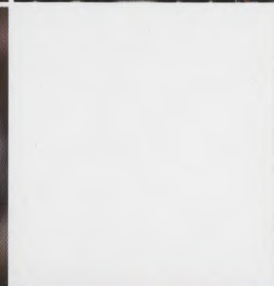
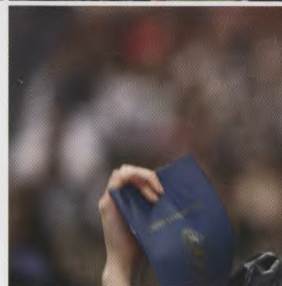
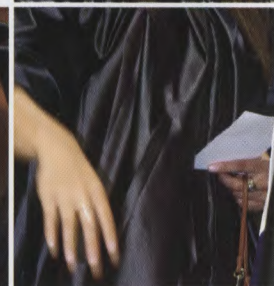
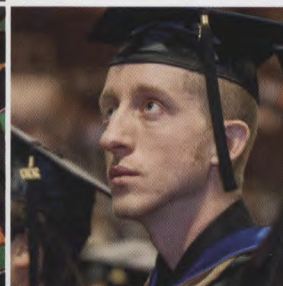
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"I hope you all chose
a stylish shoe tonight
to set you apart from
the rest."

— MONICA GOVEY '12 MBA
STUDENT SPEAKER